

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

 Saturday, June 4. 1709.

AND now we are all taken up with a Notion, that the *French King* will not sign the Preliminaries of the Treaty, as they are agreed by his Ministers at the *Hague*—— And our Accounts are positive in it, that he will venture another Campaign; upon which I'll tell you a short Story, which is Matter of History, and needs no Vouchers.

At the great Battle of *Lutzen* in *Germany*, fought in the Year 1627, between the Great *Gustavus Adolphus* King of *Sweden*, and Count *Walestine* the Imperial General.—The *Swedes*; tho' Victors, had had a very sore Day of it; the Battle had lasted near nine Hours, and scarce a Regiment in the *Swedish* Army but had charg'd three

several Times, some had been hotly engag'd the whole Day—— Again, on their Right they had suffer'd terribly among their Horse, where their King lost his Life in the first Onset, and the Imperial Cuirassers had driven all before them for the first two Hours of the Battle; and in short, their whole Army had been twice at the last Extremity; for the Imperialists exceeding them in Numbers, and being all old Troops, fought in every Part with the greatest Obstinacy imaginable.

However, the *Swedes*, led on by experienc'd Generals, and with exceeding Valour surmounting all Difficulties, had driven the Enemy from the Field of Battle 2 or 300 Paces, and as two Game-Cocks tyr'd

tyr'd and out of Breath, the two Armies stood as it were at Gaze one at another ; the Imperialists, tho' they had the worst of it, yet retreated very slowly ; and the *Swedes*, tho' they had the best of it, were but in an ill plight to pursue them——

When the Battle seem'd as it were ended, and the Imperialists stood at a Distance, retreated a little, but not fled ; some Regiments were engag'd upon the Left, but all the rest stood, as it were still uncertain what to do— When about an Hour before Night, Count *Picolomini*, with a Body of 6000 fresh Men, joyn'd the Imperial Army, having march'd with great Expedition three *German Miles* that Day to be in the Action.

Upon this Relief, the Imperialists began to take Heart and advance again, and immediately the Drums and Trumpets thro' the whole *Swedish* Line beat and sounded a new Charge, the broken Regiments were reliev'd by the Reserves that had suffer'd least, and the brave Duke *Bernhard* of *Saxe Weymar*, to whom the Honour of that Day was due, form'd the Army a-new, to receive the last Effort of the Imperialists.

A *Swedish* Soldier, that was laid down upon his Arms to rest him, after having fought bravely all the Day, hearing the Imperialists were coming on again, calls to some of his Comrades— Ha, says he, is it come to this ? And must we charge again after such a warm Piece of Work as we have had already ? — Ay, says the Men about him, we must, for the Enemy are advancing. WELL, WELL, says the Soldier again, let us do it lustily then, and make a Day on't ; I warrant they repent it.

Now, Gentlemen, before I apply the Story, I must tell you the Consequence ; The Imperialists charg'd again, and renew'd the Fight, but their Strength was gone, their Hearts were faint ; and the *Swedes* in about an Hour's Fight more drove them to a full Retreat, and remain'd compleatly Masters of the Field.

I fantasie, this Story is so apt to our Case, I need not trouble you with making the Parallel——The Treaty is a plain Retreat the *French* have made from the War. Have the *French* broke off the Treaty, and will they venture another Campaign ? — Well, well, Gentlemen, then the War

MUST GO ON, and let us do it lustily, I warrant they repent it.

We are not to be discourag'd with these Appearances. The Severity of our Terms may have push'd the *French* upon standing out to the last Extremity ; but that it is an Extremity to them, is so plain, we cannot be deceiv'd in that—— It may be true, that we see in our Prints, That their Armies are full of Men, and it is but rational to conclude it, for a starv'd Country will soon make a full Army—But I am still of Opinion, they have more Men than Soldiers ; and if their constant Losses, the unequally match'd Battles they have lost, the Distractions of their Government, their Want of Money and Credit, have not dispirited those Men they have ; if I say, these Things have not dispirited them, they are no more *French* Men, nay, I might say, they are no more Men ; I will not venture to say, that even our own Men, no not *Englishmen*, as fond as we are of our selves, would have look'd our Enemies in the Face, if we had been so continually maul'd by them.

But let their Armies be full, and suppose, that Misery has made them desperate, and let the Appearances of Things be as well as we can imagine for them— Yet I say, he must comply— We are not deceiv'd in the Miseries of his Country, and the distracted Condition of his People——Nor are we deceiv'd in the Ruin of his publick Credit, and the Impossibility of restoring his Finances, which are in the utmost Disorder. These Things cannot be Mistakes——Ask the Gentlemen that come from thence daily ; nay, some of them that are not glad it is so, yet they all agree, not in relating, but in acknowledging, that it is impossible to relate the Miseries of the People, or the Disorders and Distractions of the Government.

I know, some People are apt to tell us, we give our selves wrong Ideas, and amuse our selves with Mis-informations and Accounts that are not Fact, and magnifying those that are ; That the *French* are in no such Distress as we talk of. But tho' I have not been in *France* just now to see what is transacting there, and will not pretend to vouch for common Fame, yet give me leave to

to tell you, that we have the undoubted Testimony of the King of *France* himself to all that we pretend, and to as much as is sufficient to justify all that we suggest of the Misery of his Country, or the Disorders of his publick Affairs— And I'll give some Instances of it, to take away all the Amusements, that hitherto have had too much Success among us.

1. Has not the sinking the Credit of the Mint-Bills been acknowledg'd by the frequent Declarations of the King of *France*, for post-poning the Payments of them beyond their stated Times, and obliging his Subjects to stay even for the Interests due on them, by Virtue of his absolute Power?
2. Has not the Impossibility of supplying Money for his current Payments of the Government appear'd in his suffering the two great Bankers, by whom almost all the publick Cash to the Frontiers was negotiated, to break, and 40 Millions of *Livres* be protested upon them, by which the whole Credit of *France*, at *Genoa*, *Geneva*, *Lyons*, and *Amsterdam*, is overthrown?
3. Has he not now stoop'd to a debasing of his Coin, calling in all the old *Species*, and coining all the Bullion he gets, with the old Money recoined, with an Alloy— A Practice never attempted but in the Extremity of Things, and which must finish the Ruin of his Foreign Correspondence, and the whole Commerce of *France*?
4. Has he not been forc'd to leave his Army uncloth'd and unpaid, till the Soldiers have dy'd by the Extremity of Cold and Nakedness, and have been forc'd to plunder the Frontier Towns they were quarter'd in, for Want of Bread?
5. Has not the Extremity of his Subjects, for Want of Corn and Want of Provisions, forc'd the King of *France* to publish those Edicts and Declarations for the Discovery of Corn in his own Country, and to make publick Application in Foreign Countries for the buying up of Corn, that he would not otherwise have done?

6. Has he not seiz'd upon the Silver which has come home now in eight Ships from the *South Seas*, to the Value of near two Millions *Sterling*, being the Goods of the Merchants and private Adventurers, and taken the Money by his own absolute Power to his own Use, obliging them to content themselves with such Part of it, and such Interests for the Remainder, as he thinks fit?

7. Has he not sent Commissioners, the President *Rouille*, and afterwards the Marquis *De Torcy*, to propose Satisfaction to the Allies, and to seek Terms of Peace? And have they not produc'd Instructions that are sufficient Testimonies of his Distress, particularly the delivering up *Spain*, and all the strong Towns of *Flanders*?

Give me leave to say, these are all Articles the King of *France* would never have comply'd with, had he not been reduc'd to the lowest Ebb, and to the last Gasps, as we may say, of his Grandeur.

Let no Man therefore be under any Consternation at the Refusal he is said to make of ratifying the Preliminaries, which after all that has been said, I am still of the Opinion, he will yet ratifie——His Affairs are still acknowledg'd to be desperate, even by himself; nothing of what I have taken Notice of above is concern'd, in what he now refuses— He sticks at some Hardships, some Things that pinch him closest—— But he grants enough, that tells us he must grant the rest—— The Offers *Mons. Torcy* had Orders to make, and the Concessions of his Master that were within his Commission, were enough to tell you, he must grant whatever you demand; and the Hesitation he now makes, seems to be only an humble Application to the Confederates to treat him a little more gently.

Let any one but look over the Preliminaries, and tell me——After the King of *France* had given up *Strasburgh* to the Emperor—Abandon'd his Grandson, and withdrawn his Troops from *Spain*; after he had surrender'd *Ypres*, *Mons*, *Tournay*, *Namure*, and *Luxemburgh*, five Towns, not reckoning all